

A DREAM FOR IRVING SNERD

©1977 Ted Nelson

Irving Snerd, mild-mannered
doctoral candidate in library science,
is trying to make
head or tail
of it all...

I CAN'T
TAKE IT...
THIS
COMPUTERIZING
OF LIBRARIES
IS
TERRIFYING
STUFF...

IF ONLY...
IT COULD
ALL BE
SIMPLE...

VERY
OFFICIAL
REPORT
DEWEY
HEX
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
THROUGH ZEN-PERT
TEAM OBJECTIVITY
CLUSTER KEYS
IN COROL-MINUS

IMINARY
IMPLICATED
STORY

EXTRA-
TECHNICAL
PRESENTED
WRITUP

AND A STRANGE DROWSINESS
OVERCOMES HIM...

WHERE AM I?

WELCOME, MR. SNERD.
WELCOME TO THE XANADU*
INFORMATION SYSTEM.

WHAT TH'...?

WELL MAY YOU ASK.
IT'S A CROSS-LINKED
ELECTRONIC LIBRARY.

I'M KAREN,
YOUR STEWARDESS.

*NOTE TO ALL YOU FANS:

"Xanadu Information System,"
"Xanadu Hypertext Network,"
"Xanadu Terminal,"

"Xanadu Information Services"
and the Eternal-Flaming-X
are trade and service marks
for computer products & services
offered by yerz. Truly.
Keep those comp & letters coming. Ted N.



LIBRARY? WHERE ARE THE BOOKS?

I DON'T SEE ANY CARD CATALOGUE.

WHERE ARE THE KEYPUNCHES?

WHAT IS ALL THIS?

I GOT A FORLOCK 7 ** JUST NOW - THIS GUY FOOLED ME INTO HIS DOKEY COLLATERATION OF EDGAR CAYCE WITH THOMAS AQUINAS.

**KNOW YOUR FORLOCK AND ROSEBUD CODES!

Forlock 1 - a bad thing. Ick. Forlock 7 - nuisance writings.
Forlock 1000 - catastrophe. Rosebud 2 - a pleasant encounter.
Rosebud 11 - boh no! next screen creation. Rosebud 20 - royalties coming in on your copyrighted creations.
(My codes reserved for future expansion, contributions welcome.)

A jump-link (x) is like a footnote, except when the reader points at the asterisk it can take him anywhere in the entire library.

Collateration (as) means that corresponding parts of any two things, as somebody has linked them, can be viewed together.

And the quote-window (□) means you can instantly see any quotation in its original context.

We call these three linkage modes the "classie set."

They're very simple and very powerful. Someday perhaps we can extend them to graphics and animation. (We can nest and combine them to any depth.)

ALL WRITINGS ARE STORED ELECTRONICALLY NOW. WHATEVER YOU REQUEST AT YOUR SCREEN COMES TO YOU AUTOMATICALLY

THERE ARE PEOPLE COME AND WRITE, HOME COMPUTERS.

WE'RE DELIBERATELY SETTING IT UP AS A KIND OF CULT - PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THE WRITTEN WORD. THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO MAKE ITS FULL CAPABILITY AVAILABLE TO ALL USERS, NOT PHONILY REDUCED FOR DIFFERENT MODELS OF EQUIPMENT. OUR CLUB OF ALEXANDRIA STUDIES THE IMPORTANT POLICY QUESTIONS...

ALL SORTS OF LOOKUPS ON THE SYSTEM. TO THIS HYPERTEXT STAND TO READ OR THEY CALL UP THROUGH THEIR

GRAFFITI CONTEST

BUT WHY THIS WAY? WHY DIDN'T YOU DO IT THROUGH THE NATIONAL COMPOSITIVITY FOUNDATION? THE INSTITUTE FOR POLYSYLLABIC LEGITIMATION? THE COUNCIL OF SANCTIMONIOUS SOCIETIES?

The Serendipity Festival was better. Lot of Xanatics.

Are you Mahatma Gandolf?

I preferred the Intertwingularity Expo.

Buncha real Xanatics.

No, my Xandle's Green Shme.

WHAT ABOUT QUERY LANGUAGES?

What about DISTRIBUTED SATELLITE PROCESSORS?

What about ISAM?

RJE?

THE MINI-MICRO DISTINCTION?

JCL?

FIRMWARE?

AARGH-

WHAT ABOUT VEEBLEFETZER
FRAMMIS POTRZESIE TURKSOENCABULATORS?

ER...

BUT
THIS
MEANS
NO UNNECESSARY
COMPLICATIONS...

We believe That good design
means simplicity for the user.
We believe citizens should
start knowing about things again.

Here,
take
this
paperweight
to
remember
us by.



OH NO!

NO REPRESENTATION IS MADE
AS TO THE PRACTICALITY OF
THE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES
DISCUSSED HERE; THEY ARE PROPOSED
AS A POSSIBLE IDEAL FOR YOUR
CONSIDERATION AND COMMENT.
(See also T. Nelson, "Design of a
Transcendental Literary Network,"
1977 National Computer Conference.)
Sorry we can't reply to comments,
but we are building a mailing list.

°Swarthmore Hypertext Project°
Box 128
Swarthmore PA
° 19081. °

THANK GOODNESS...
IT WAS JUST A DREAM.

OR
IS
IT???

CIRCUMFLEXIVE FOSTER
ANALYSIS METHODS
WITH ELASTIC
CONCEPT SYMMETRY
IN THE LIBRARY SCIENCES
A NONMATHEMATICAL TREATMENT
PRESENTED KEMENALLY

